

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings.

1. (Original) A faucet comprising:
  - a. a base configured for mounting on a support surface;
  - b. a body supporting a dispensing spout and a valve; and
  - c. a bayonet fitting configured to connect the base to the body and to prevent forward rotation of the base relative to the body beyond a designated stroke and to thereafter permit backward rotation and disconnection of the body from the base without the use of any tools.
2. (Original) The faucet of claim 1, wherein the bayonet fitting comprises:
  - a. at least two grooves formed in a circumferential surface of the base, and
  - b. at least two circumferentially spaced projections on the body,wherein the projections are configured to engage the grooves to secure the body to the base in a specific orientation between the body and the base.
3. (Original) The faucet of claim 2, wherein the grooves are at least generally L-shaped.
4. (Original) The faucet of claim 2, wherein the projections are evenly distributed around a circumferential surface of the body.
5. (Original) The faucet of claim 2, wherein the base includes only two grooves, and the body includes only two projections.
6. (Original) The faucet of claim 1, wherein the base has a chamber formed therein that is dimensioned and configured to house a water-sensitive device, the chamber being sealed from fluid ingress by a system of seals configured to seal the body to the base, the valve assembly to the body, and the base to the support surface so as to seal the chamber from fluid ingress.

7. (Original) A faucet comprising:

- a. a base which is configured to be mounted on a support surface and which has a chamber therein that is capable of receiving a water-sensitive device;
- b. a body which is removably mounted on the base and which supports a valve assembly and a spout; and
- c. a system of seals configured to seal the body to the base, the valve assembly to the body, and the base to the support surface so as to seal the chamber from fluid ingress.

8. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, wherein the base comprises:

- a. a pedestal which includes
    - i. a bottom surface that is configured to rest on the support surface,
    - ii. an outer peripheral wall, and
    - iii. an inner peripheral wall which is spaced from the outer wall; and
  - b. a seal retaining ring positioned within the bottom of the pedestal, wherein the bottom surface of the seal retaining ring is notched at its outer periphery to define a seal-receiving groove between the notch of the seal retaining ring and an inner surface of the outer peripheral wall of the pedestal, and
- wherein the system of seals includes a seal located in the seal-receiving groove to seal the chamber from below.

9. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, further comprising an air gap chamber which is formed by an air gap module housed in a vertical elliptical bore in the body, wherein the air gap module includes

- a. a base portion,
- b. a mid-portion located adjacent the base portion, and
- c. a top portion located adjacent the mid-portion, wherein the system of seals includes a first air gap O-ring located at the base portion and a second air gap O-rings located at the top portion, and wherein the first and second air gap O-rings seal the base and top portions in the vertical bore.

10. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, wherein the body includes an annular ring having a groove therein, and

wherein the pedestal includes

- i. a bottom surface that is configured to rest on the support surface,
- ii. an outer peripheral wall, and
- iii. an inner peripheral wall which is spaced from the outer wall and which is

counterbored at an upper end thereof to receive the annular ring on the body,

wherein the system of seals includes a seal disposed in the groove in the annular ring to seal the annular ring to the base.

11. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, wherein the body includes a bore having a stepped upper portion, further comprising a fitting that is inserted into the bore,

wherein the system of seals includes an O-ring disposed in the bore.

12. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, wherein the body includes a stem portion with a bore formed therein,

wherein the valve assembly comprises:

- a. a valve body;
- b. a valve stem; and
- c. a valve housing that houses the valve body and the valve stem;

wherein the system of seals includes an O-ring that seals the valve housing to the bore in the stem portion.

13. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, wherein the valve assembly comprises:

- a. a valve body;
- b. a valve stem; and
- c. a valve housing which houses the valve body and the valve stem;

wherein the system of seals includes O-rings which seal the valve stem to the valve housing while permitting relative rotation therebetween.

14. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 7, further comprising:  
a spout which extends from the body and which includes an inlet and an outlet, wherein the system of seals includes O-rings sealing the spout to the body.

15. (Original) The faucet of claim 7, further comprising a bayonet fitting configured to connect the base to the body and to prevent a forward rotation of the body relative to the base beyond a designated stroke and to thereafter permit backward rotation and disconnection of the body from the base without the use of any tools.

16. (Original) A faucet comprising:  
a. a base configured to be mounted on a support surface;  
b. a body supporting a spout and a valve assembly;  
c. a bayonet fitting configured to connect the base to the body and to prevent a forward rotation of the body relative to the base beyond a designated stroke and to thereafter permit backward rotation and disconnection of the body from the base without the use of any tools;  
d. an electronics package disposed within the body; and  
e. a chamber that is hermetically sealed from liquid and that houses the electronics package.

17. (Original) The faucet of claim 16, wherein the bayonet fitting comprises:  
a. at least two grooves formed in a circumferential surface of the base, and  
b. at least two circumferentially spaced projections on the body,  
wherein the projections are configured to engage the grooves to secure the body to the base in a specific orientation between the body and the base.

18. (Original) The faucet of claim 16, wherein the chamber is sealed from liquid by a system of seals configured to seal the body to the base, the valve assembly to the body, and the base to the support surface so as to seal the chamber from fluid ingress.

19. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 1, wherein the faucet contains a system of seals comprised of O-rings to prevent water leakage.

20. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 19, wherein the system comprises at least one O-ring on the spout for sealing connection with an interior portion of the body.

21. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 19, wherein the system comprises at least one O-ring on the valve stem for sealing connection with an interior portion of the body.

22. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 19, wherein the system comprises at least one O-ring on the body for sealing connection with an interior portion of the base.

23. (Previously Presented) A faucet comprising:

- a. a base which is configured to be mounted on a support surface;
- b. a body which is removably mounted on the base and which supports a valve assembly and a spout; and
- c. a system of seals configured to seal the body to the base, and seal the valve assembly and spout to the body.

24. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 23, wherein the system of seals comprises O-rings.

25. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 24, wherein the spout is sealed to the body with a pair of O-rings.

26. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 25, wherein the spout has a pair of grooves for receiving the O-rings.

27. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 24, wherein the valve assembly is sealed to the body with a pair of O-rings.
28. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 27, wherein the valve assembly has a pair of grooves for receiving the O-rings.
29. (Previously Presented) A faucet comprising:
- a. an annular base which has inner and outer peripheral surfaces, at least two circumferentially spaced at least generally L-shaped grooves being formed in the inner peripheral surface of the base, wherein each of the grooves has an at least generally vertical leg and an at least generally horizontal leg;
  - b. a body which has
    - i. an upper portion having first and second openings formed therein, and
    - ii. a lower portion terminating in a segmented annular extension, the extension having a lower opening formed therein and having an inner peripheral surface and an outer peripheral surface, the outer peripheral surface of the extension having a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of an adjacent section of the lower portion of the body and that is smaller than the diameter of the inner peripheral surface of the base, wherein at least two segments of the extension bear projections that engage the grooves in the base, each of the projections having a length that is less than a length of the vertical leg of the corresponding groove and a height that is less than a height of at least part of the horizontal leg of the corresponding groove, the projections being adapted to slide downwardly through the vertical legs of the grooves upon insertion of the body into the base and to rotate at least partially into the horizontal legs of the grooves upon rotation of the body relative to the base, thereby to secure the body in the base,
  - c. a valve assembly which is disposed in the body assembly;
  - d. a spigot which is mounted in the first upper opening in the body;

- e. a valve stem which is mounted in the second upper opening in the body and which is connected to the valve assembly;
- f. an air gap module which is housed in the body;
- g. a supply line which is housed in the body, the supply line having a fluid outlet in fluid communication with the valve assembly and having a fluid inlet; and
- h. a series of seals including
  - i. an annular seal located between the body and the base,
  - ii. an annular seal located between the air gap module and an inner surface of the body,
  - iii. an annular seal located between the supply line and the valve assembly,
  - iv. an annular seal located between the valve stem and the valve assembly, and
  - v. an annular seal located between the body and the spigot.

30. (Previously Presented) The faucet of claim 29, wherein at least some of the seals are O-rings.

31. (New) A faucet comprising:

- a. an annular base which has inner and outer peripheral surfaces, at least two circumferentially spaced at least generally L-shaped grooves being formed in the inner peripheral surface of the base, wherein each of the grooves has an at least generally vertical leg and an at least generally horizontal leg;
- b. a body which has
  - i. an upper portion having first and second openings formed therein, and
  - ii. a lower portion terminating in a segmented annular extension, the extension having a lower opening formed therein and having an inner peripheral surface and an outer peripheral surface, the outer peripheral surface of the extension having a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of an adjacent section of the lower portion of the body and that is smaller than the diameter of the inner peripheral surface of the base, wherein at

least two segments of the extension bear projections that engage the grooves in the base, each of the projections having a length that is less than a length of the vertical leg of the corresponding groove and a height that is less than a height of at least part of the horizontal leg of the corresponding groove, the projections being adapted to slide downwardly through the vertical legs of the grooves upon insertion of the body into the base and to rotate at least partially into the horizontal legs of the grooves upon rotation of the body relative to the base, thereby to secure the body in the base,

- c. a valve assembly which is disposed in the body assembly; and
- d. a spigot which is mounted in the first upper opening in the body.